

Report on Natural Resources for Comprehensive Plan Committee

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Criteria and definitions

Natural Resources - minimum policies required to address state goals

- To conserve critical natural resources in the community
- Coordinate with neighboring communities, regional & state resource agencies

Critical natural resources - resources under federal and/or state law warrant protection from negative impacts of development

Wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas, fragile mountain areas, and unique natural areas

Critical rural area: a rural area that is specifically identified as deserving maximum protection from development to preserve natural resources and related economic activities

Important Natural Resources - areas in community important for strategic conservation planning purposes, comprised of one or more of the following:

State goal - to protect the State's other critical natural resources.....

Natural resources not classified as Critical natural resources

- large habitat blocks (BwH) (MIFW)
- Habitat connections (BwH) (MIFW)
- Focus Areas Statewide Ecological Significance (Maine Wildlife Action Plan MIFW)
 - Exemplary Natural Community locations (MNAP)

Analysis

Are any of the community's critical natural resources threatened by development, overuse, or other activities? [Meet with Conservation Commission, Lamoine Shellfish Committee...]

Are local shoreland zone standards consistent with state guidelines and with standards placed on adjacent shorelands in neighboring communities? [Look at state guidelines, Planning Board, Frenchman Bay Conservancy, Open Space Report]

What regulatory and non regulatory measures has the community taken or can the community take to protect critical natural resources important natural resources? [Conservation Commission, Select Board, Planning Board]

--Analysis, Cont.

Is there current regional cooperation or planning underway to protect shared critical natural resources?
Are there opportunities to partner with local or regional groups? [What kind of agreements do we have with Hancock County Regional Planning Office? Conservation Commission, Frenchman Bay, Open Space Report.....]

Conditions and Trends

Data Required to address Analysis:

Community's Comprehensive Planning Natural Resources Data Set prepared and provided to the Town from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife AND the DEP

A map or description of scenic areas and scenic views of local importance, and regional or statewide importance [Open Space Report, Ice Age Trail, Maps in the Town Hall....]

Synopsis of past information

Open Space Report

(For resources and data listing see pp. 26-27.

Eelgrass

- **Next steps is it still happening MDI Biological Laboratory? University of Maine Interns? Is Trenton involved?**

- Eelgrass is a habitat for many commercially important resources in Frenchman Bay (dependent on beds in the Jordan River between Lamoine and Trenton) Need two town effort

[Are we coordinating with Trenton? Question to ask Conservation Commission, with Frenchman Bay Partners? Local Action ?]

- In 2009 - monitoring and restoration began in 2009 [Initiated by MDI Biological Laboratory & interns from the University of Maine]

[Current status?]

- Inform others about restoration efforts --- mussel draggers and others

[Is this happening? and how?] [What is the organization's name? Contact the organization] [Conservation Commission, ??????]

Watershed Level Planning

- **Meet with Comprehensive Planning Commission**

13 Towns and 3 unorganized territories involved in the watershed running into Frenchmen Bay. (Lamoine Conservation Commission representative for Lamoine) (Beauty & ecological health of the bay to sustain harvesting of marine resources & recreational activities)

Shorebird Habitat:

- **Meet with Lamoine Conservation Commission**

Much of Lamoine's shore frontage fits US Fish and Wildlife Service designations as having habitat suitability for shorebirds and waterfowl, especially upper portions of the Skillings and Jordan Rivers and all of Raccoon Cove.

- Need more data regarding species, listed as in decline, or identified as threatened/endangered, which are observed in Lamoine?
- From Open Space Report: "Based on available data, these areas of shorebird habitat are the most important habitat of any kind in Lamoine." (Linked also to Marine Resources)

Forest Environment

9,664 of 11,000 acres are in trees [Need update]

600 acres in forested wetland [Need update]

200 acres per year have been harvested over the past decade [Need update]

10 properties in tree growth (272.9 acres) [update]

1 identified deer wintering yard south of Walker Road & West of Route 204 [Update]

[Are there other areas in Lamoine?]

Wetlands and Vernal Pools (Maine Dept. of Inland Fish & Wildlife divided wetlands into categories) Map - Town Hall

- How to distinguish: By wetland tolerant plant species, e.g., cattails (scientific name: Typha)
- The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) has divided wetlands into various categories and mapped the documented presence of wetlands in Lamoine on maps which can be found at the Town Hall [Wetlands Characterization map] [Open Space Report: "Not complete or conclusive"]
- Wetland analysis may be necessary
- Lamoine also has vernal pools, which are fishless, seasonal ponds which hold water at least 2 ½ months a year. (breeding grounds for amphibians and/or fairy shrimp)

Large Habitat Blocks *-500 acres*

- Review Lamoine maps--human settlement areas and open spaces; dense/sparse population and building areas; plans, proposals for residential development; conservation easements; existing wildlife corridors.

(Is there any current coordination with adjacent communities sharing extensions of habitat blocks with Lamoine?)

Scenic areas and scenic views

4 sites in the State of Maine Downeast Coastal Inventory: Marlboro Beach, Lamoine Beach Park, Bloomfield Park, Mud Creek/Pinkham's Flats.

Lamoine State Park and Lamoine Town Harbor

4 other views noted in Open Space Report as having local importance

Four scenic areas protected by Town or State ownership: Lamoine State Park, Marlboro Beach, Lamoine Beach Park, Bloomfield Park. (Do we need more research, information to discuss possible need for protection of rest of scenic areas?)

Lamoine Comprehensive Plan

Natural Resources are discussed in one section:

- Part VI -- Natural Resources, including relevant subsections on bear and deer population, and wildlife habitat. For our updating, this information can provide a useful point for expanding the definition of Natural Resources and for reviewing progress. (Updating of both maps and information needed)

State and other sources for information

Natural Resources Critical and Important

Critical Natural Resources

natural resources which under federal and/or state law warrant protection from negative impacts of development.

- Resources Protection Districts (MDEP)
 - Wetlands (MDEP)
- Significant Wildlife habitat (Natural Resources Protection Act)
- Threatened, endangered & special concern animal species habitat (MIFW)
 - Freshwater fisheries spawning habitat
- Natural communities - critically imperiled or rare (MNAP)
- areas plant species declared threatened or endangered (MDOC)
 - Coastal sand dunes (NRP Act)
 - Fragile Mountains (NRP Act)
 - National Landmarks

Important Natural Resources

Areas in the community important for strategic conservation - comprised of:

- Large habitat blocks (BwH) Beginning With Habitat
 - Habitat connections (BwH)
- Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance identified in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan (MIWF)
 - Exemplary Natural Community locations (MNAP)

KEY:

MDEP: Maine Department of Environmental Protection

MIFW: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

MDMR: Maine Department of Marine Resources

MDOC: Maine Department of Conservation

MNAP: Maine Natural Areas Program MDOC

BwH: Beginning with Habitat Program (MIFW)

SPO: Maine State Planning Office (now in Maine Department of Agriculture....)

NRP: Natural Resources Protection (Act)

